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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4811th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 August 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council unequivocally condemns the terrorist attack that took place on 19 August 2003 against the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad and thereby against the international community as a whole, causing numerous deaths and injuries among international personnel and Iraqi people.

The Security Council condemns also in the strongest terms the perpetrators of such attack and underlines the need to bring them to justice.

The Security Council pays tribute and expresses its deepest admiration to all those among the United Nations personnel who have lost their lives or have been injured in the service of the United Nations and of the Iraqi people, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The Security Council expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families.

The Security Council reaffirms the imperative to respect, in all circumstances, the safety and security of United Nations personnel and the need for adequate security measures to be taken in this regard.

The Security Council reaffirms its determination to assist the Iraqi people to build peace and justice in their country and to determine their own political future by themselves. It welcomes in this regard the determination of the United Nations to continue its operation in Iraq to fulfil its mandate in the service of the Iraqi people, and will not be intimidated by such attacks.

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